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Items 24 and 40 of the provisional agenda*

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)**Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of
Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples****Letter dated 21 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the
United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

In accordance with instructions from the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 10 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina addressed to you (A/64/90) regarding references to the Falkland Islands made in the United Kingdom's contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/64/70).

The United Kingdom firmly rejects the assertion by the Government of the Republic of Argentina that the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas, are an integral part of Argentine national territory.

The United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. The principle of self-determination, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, underlies our position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. There can be no negotiation on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. The Islanders regularly make it clear that they wish the Islands to remain under British sovereignty. The right of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their political future was freely exercised throughout the negotiation of the new Falkland Islands Constitution, which came into force on 1 January 2009. The United Kingdom further rejects the assertion by the Government of the Republic of Argentina that the Falkland Islands Constitution that came into force on 1 January 2009 shows disregard for any General Assembly resolution.

* A/64/150.



In reference to the inclusion of information pertaining to the Falkland Islands in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of decolonization resolutions adopted since the declaration of the First and Second International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/64/70), the United Kingdom submitted to the Secretariat a paper which sets out the position of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories for inclusion in the Secretary-General's report. This is in line with the United Kingdom's policy of informal cooperation with the Special Committee of 24 on Decolonization, without prejudice to its view that none of the UK Overseas Territories should remain on the United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The United Kingdom notes that the Russian Federation also makes reference to the Falkland Islands, as well as various other territories, in its contribution to the report of the Secretary-General referred to above (A/64/70).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the General Assembly under items 24 and 40 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) John Sawers